



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,087	02/19/2004	Stephen T. Foley	P0024937.11US	4761
27581	7590	01/09/2009		
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924				
EXAMINER				
HOLMES, REX R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3762				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/09/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,087

Applicant(s)

FOLEY, STEPHEN T.

Examiner

REX HOLMES

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-31 and 33-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-18, 29-31 and 33-36 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-28 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/15/08.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/15/08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 27-29, 31 and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cigaina (U.S. Pat. 5,423,872) in view of Douglas (U.S. Pat. 5,292,344).

4. Regarding claims 1-3, 7-9, 29, 31 and 34-36, Cigaina discloses a gastric pacemaker that senses particular electric activity and then provides "on demand" stimulation (Col. 3, ll. 41-45). Cigaina further discloses that the system stimulates to disrupt normal slow waves and prevent emptying of the stomach (Abstract; Col. 1, line 60 to Col. 2, line 12; Col. 2, line 65 to Col. 3, line 7; Col. 3, ll. 20-51; Col. 4, ll. 8-10).

5. Regarding claim 5, Cigaina discloses that the stimulator is programmable and thus inherently has a programmable controller (Col. 3, ll. 41-45).
6. Regarding claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 27-29, 31 and 34-36, Cigaina discloses a system that senses and then disrupts normal activity, it is silent as to if the gastric pacemaker includes multiple electrodes. However, Douglas discloses a gastric pacemaker that includes multiple electrodes for sensing and stimulating that are located through the stomach and connected to sensing and stimulation channels (Figs. 1 & 2A). Douglas further teaches how the electrodes are connected to the gastric pacemaker on one end and the stomach wall on the other end (Fig. 2A). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the gastrointestinal pacemaker of Cigaina with the multiple electrode gastrointestinal pacemaker of Douglas in order to provide the predictable results of increasing the sensing and stimulation sites to provide increased control.
7. Claims 4, 6, 11-18 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cigaina in view of Douglas as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Gordon (U.S. Pat. 6,895,278).
8. Cigaina in view of Douglas discloses a gastrointestinal stimulation device as described in detail above, and further discloses that the stimulator is triggered on classified events and the stimulation is delivered to the stomach in the areas where the intrinsic activity was sensed. But, Cigaina in view of Douglas does not teach a power conservation condition, a telemetry system or a way to save sensed data. However, Gordon teaches a power conservation condition that takes into account the time of day

and in the absence of a triggering activity (Col. 2, ll. 62-67 and Col. 3, ll. 1-5). Gordon further discloses that the controller contains an internal storage device and the data can be telemetered using an inductive coupling methodology or radio communication methodology (Col. 15, ll. 1-9; Col. 10, ll. 44-58).

9. Regarding Claims 6 and 11-18, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the gastrointestinal stimulation device of Cigaina in view of Douglas with the power conservation of Gordon in order to provide the predictable results of increasing the life of the stimulation device, increasing the life of the battery, and to increase the overall quality of life of the patient.

10. Regarding claim 30, Cigaina in view of Douglas discloses the claimed device including memory (Douglas 430, 440, 450), but fails to disclose that the device maintains a history of predecessor events. However, Gordon teaches a device that contains memory for storing the stimulation data so that it can be reviewed later to help provide better stimulation (Col. 10, l. 59 to Col. 11, l. 17; Claims 6, 8, 14 and 32). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the gastrointestinal stimulation device of Cigaina in view of Douglas with the memory storage of Gordon in order to provide the predictable result of a history of stimulation events for review to provide improved stimulation in the future.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 19-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 11-18, 27-31 and 33-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REX HOLMES whose telephone number is (571)272-8827. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571-272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3762

/George R Evanisko/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3762